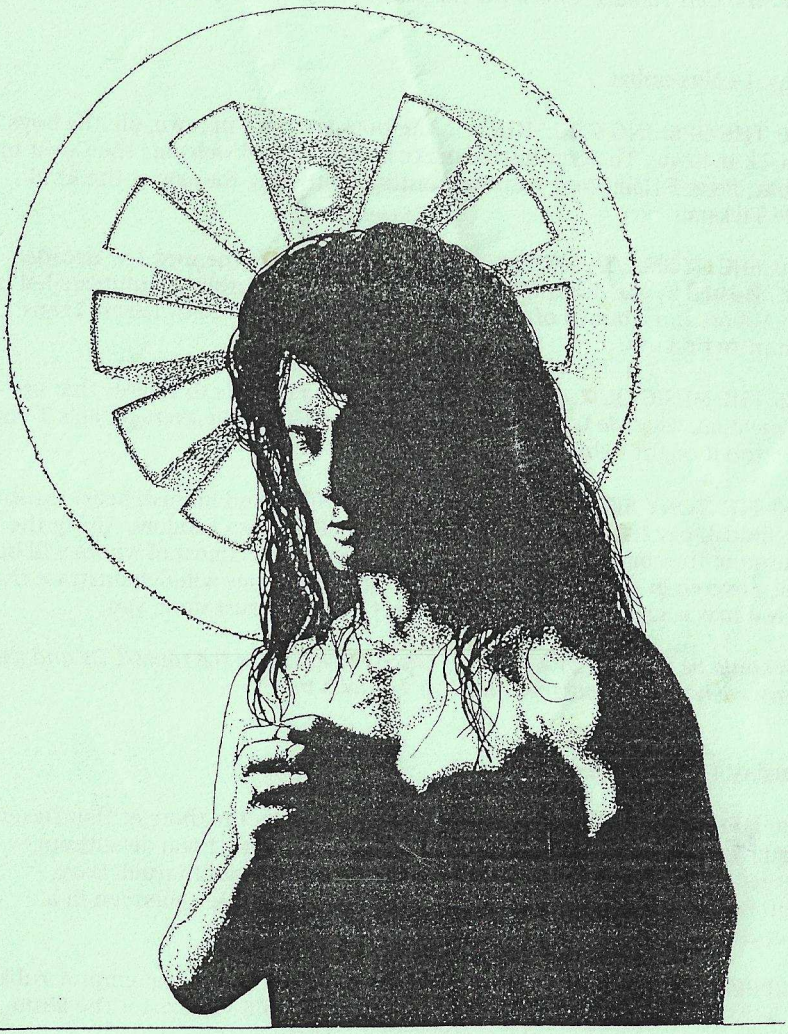
Novacon 27
Read Me!



Programme Notes by Mike D Siddall

[All Programme items listed below will be in the Elgar Suite (see the plan on the back cover).

[However, please remember that the Programme continues before, after and between these scheduled items in Dave Lally's Programme Room. From about 5pm on Friday through to Sunday Dave Lally will strive to entertain you in the HEREFORD (bottom of the stairs from the lobby, next door to the Restaurant, facing the Con Tables). Check the flip chart by the door of the Hereford details.]

Friday 14 November

20:00 THE OPENING CEREMONY. ...the boys are back in town, oh, the boys are back in town. The Committee make it official, and welcome the Guest of Honour, Peter F Hamilton. (Not to mention launching the sale of the RNIB Raffle Tickets!)

20:30 THE UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA GAME. Well, what ***do*** the next few decades hold? Hosted by the debonair Mr Siddall, a team of purblind Optimists led by Mike Abbott and a bunch of miserable Pessimists prodded by Bernie Evans attempt to find out.

21:45 THE MUSIC QUIZ. Tim Stannard bravely attempts to answer that age-old question, what ***do*** fans know about music? Given the average fan's T-shirt collection it ought to be a lot but... well, we'll see.

23:00 THE TONY BERRY EXPERIENCE. Dave Hicks and fannish heart-throb Mike Siddall pay tribute to one of the Giants of modern Fandom. Using the medium of the comedy revue and a cast of thousands (most of whom will be small, covered in chocolate, and orange-flavoured) they will demonstrate that you too may achieve Berrydom, or at least have it thrust upon you.

*[This could be followed by a People's Disco - if you have the tapes/CDs and the energy we have the equipment **and** Mr Siddall's butt!]*

Saturday 15 November

10:00 DESERT ISLAND BOOKS. Ever been struck by the thought that Desert Island Disks is silly? Sod the music, what ***books*** couldn't you do without? Maureen Kincaid Speller finds out from her guests - Paul Kincaid, Dave Langford and Mark Plummer. Worth attending just to see Maureen in a life-or-death struggle with a drink with an umbrella in it.

11:30 BOOK AUCTION. As per tradition, forget all that caveat emptor rubbish and let your bibliophilic instincts run wild. The RNIB's Books for the Blind

(who get 10% commission) want your money, and you want all those horrible gaps in your collection filled, perfect symmetry.

13:30 WORLDCON UPDATE. KIM Campbell brings you all the latest news on the nascent Worldcon bid. Be enthused, be inspired, be appalled if you like, but be there.

15:00 GUEST OF HONOUR INTERVIEW. Delight as the private thoughts and hidden agendas are cruelly torn from the breast of our poor, defenceless, Guest of Honour Peter F Hamilton by the infamous Julian Headlong. Wallow as his innermost feelings are ruthlessly exposed for the gratuitous gratification of the howling mob (that's you, that is).

16:30 TURKEY READING FOR TAFF. Yes it's an old favourite, but this time we have a secret weapon, THE FIELD GUIDE TO EXTRATERRESTIALS (with illustrations via OHP and expert analysis from Dr Jack Cohen). Plus all the usual chaos and ruthless mangling of deathless prose.

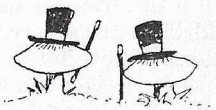
18:00 FLUKE. Hosted by the delectable Pam Wells (assisted by the delicious KIM Campbell). Using the device of a game-show based on the TV version, Ms Wells will demonstrate once and for all that the universe is not only cruel, but completely arbitrary.

19:00 TAFF HUSTINGS: EUROPE TO NORTH AMERICA 1998. If you can think of more fun than watching all those leading fannish luminaries standing for TAFF grovel shamelessly for the favour of little old you, then you should have submitted it as a programme item. Featuring the 1998 candidates: Chris Bell, Bridget "Bug" Hardcastle and Maureen Kincaid Speller, with the current (token male) European TAFF Administrator, Martin Tudor, moderating.

20:30 MR & MRS FANZINE CO-EDITORS. Dave Hicks and fannish heart-throb Mike Siddall pop the questions to the a few couples, including Mr & Mrs ATTITUDE (Michael Abbott, John Dallman, Pam Wells) and Mr & Mrs CRITICAL WAVE (Steve Green, Martin Tudor).

21:30 CEILIDH. 2Kon Bid Committee proudly presents the Amazing Travelling Ceilidh Tape(TM). Get up! Bounce around! Let your Celtic blood express itself! It's been six years since the ATCT(TM) was last at Novacon, but we'll help you out with any dances you don't know. (NB this being a Celtic thing, there's, sadly, little chance of seeing Mike Siddall's magnificent butt in motion).

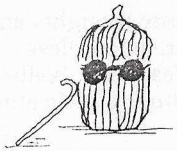
23:30 'til late. TIM STANNARD'S DISCO. A chance not only to dance and party but also, should you be supremely fortunate, to see the Siddall butt in motion. You'll never forgive yourself if you miss it.



MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Sunday 16 November

10:00 FIGMENTS OF REALITY. Dr Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart discuss some of the ideas in their latest book, on the evolution of consciousness.



BLIND DATE

11:30 ART AUCTION. You've been admiring them in the Art Show, now's your chance to get in there and purchase some art for yourself. Bring your wallet and/or purses - Chris Morgan will be happy to help you lighten them.

13:30 SF DETECTIVES. Murder One, the specialist book-shop in London, has its entire basement devoted to SF. Should this surprise us? Or are the detective novel and SF naturally compatible genres? Carol Morton moderates the discussion between Steve Green, Peter F Hamilton and Julian Headlong.

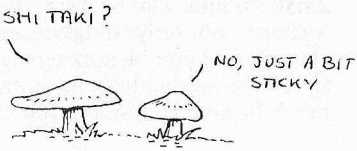
14:30 FUTURE LAW. The Law is always changing, but what's a good guess as to how present day developments will spin off onto future offences? Wendy Graham assembles a panel of lawyers, including Lilian Edwards and Tim Stannard, to answer the question, and Tony Morton, our Treasurer, thanks God they're not charging us an hourly rate.

15:30 SECOND ENDINGS. Presented by ReConvene and chaired by Peter Wareham. You've just reached a crucial point in the book you're reading, when you find out the remaining pages are all blank. Bridget Hardcastle, Austin Benson, Kate Solomon and Paul Dormer attempt to fill in the blanks.

16:30 AWARDS CEREMONY. Presentation of the Novas Awards, the raffle is drawn, thank-yous are said... but it's not over yet!

17.30 UNITED FAN FUNDS AUCTION. Alison Scott and her team of little elves pummel your poor, abused little wallets into submission. Don't worry, you will enjoy it... probably... possibly... look, just turn up.

20:00-23.00 THE BAVARIAN SCHUNKLERS. Beer and Sausages - can the world ever have seen two such complementary terms? With added Oompah band (doing three 40-minute sets). Put it this way, the queue forms behind Mike Siddall (there you are, Last Chance to See Fandom's Finest Butt). If you haven't yet booked your sausages some places are left - give your name(s) and £2.50 to Carol Morton at the Novacon Registration table (by the head of the stairs in the lobby).



Food in the Abbey Hotel

Breakfast

Will be served to residents of the Abbey in the Restaurant (downstairs from the lobby, sharp left), from 7.30am-11.30am.

Restaurant

"Quick Food" is being laid on by the Abbey especially for members of Novacon, this will be a buffet style Cafeteria Service with a cash till at the end of the buffet. The "Quick Food" will be served in the Restaurant (except where otherwise stated) at the following times:

Friday 14 November - Dinner from 6pm until 10pm
- Supper from 10pm until midnight

Saturday 15 November - Lunch from 12 noon until 5pm
- Dinner from 6pm until 10pm
- Supper from 10pm until midnight

Sunday 16 November - Lunch from 12 noon until 5pm

(After this both Dinner (from 6pm until 10pm) and Supper (from 10pm until midnight) will be available from the Hotel's Main Bar, ***not*** the Restaurant.)

The "Quick Food" Menu

Lunch (all dishes @ £3.50 each)

* - All Day Breakfast (egg, bacon, sausage, beans & hashbrowns)
* - Jacket Potatoes with various fillings (choice of cheese, coleslaw, tuna & sweetcorn, chilli, baked beans, curry)
* - Soup of the Day with Filled Baguette
- Chilli Con Carne served with rice or chips
- Meat Curry served with rice or chips
- Vegetable Curry served with rice or chips
- Pasta Dish of the Day

NB: Chips are available with any of the above for an extra 50p.

*The * indicates the Snack items which are available until 5pm; the other, main meals, are only available from 12 noon until 2pm.*

Dinner

A selection of starters is available from the buffet @ £2.50 each.

- Sweet & Sour Pork served with rice or chips
- Chicken Kiev served with Barbecue Sauce, rice or chips
- Lasagne Verdi served with rice or chips
- Home-made Meat Pie served with Jacket Potato or Chips and Peas
- Home-made Vegetable Pie served with Jacket Potato or Chips and Peas

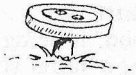
A selection of sweets is available from the buffet at dinner @ £2.50 each.

Supper

- Balti & Rice @ £3.50

Garden Suite

This section of the restaurant will be offering the Abbey's normal Table D'hôte Menu - four course for £16.50, ask in the restaurant for further details.



BUTTON MUSHROOM

The Main Bar in the Abbey

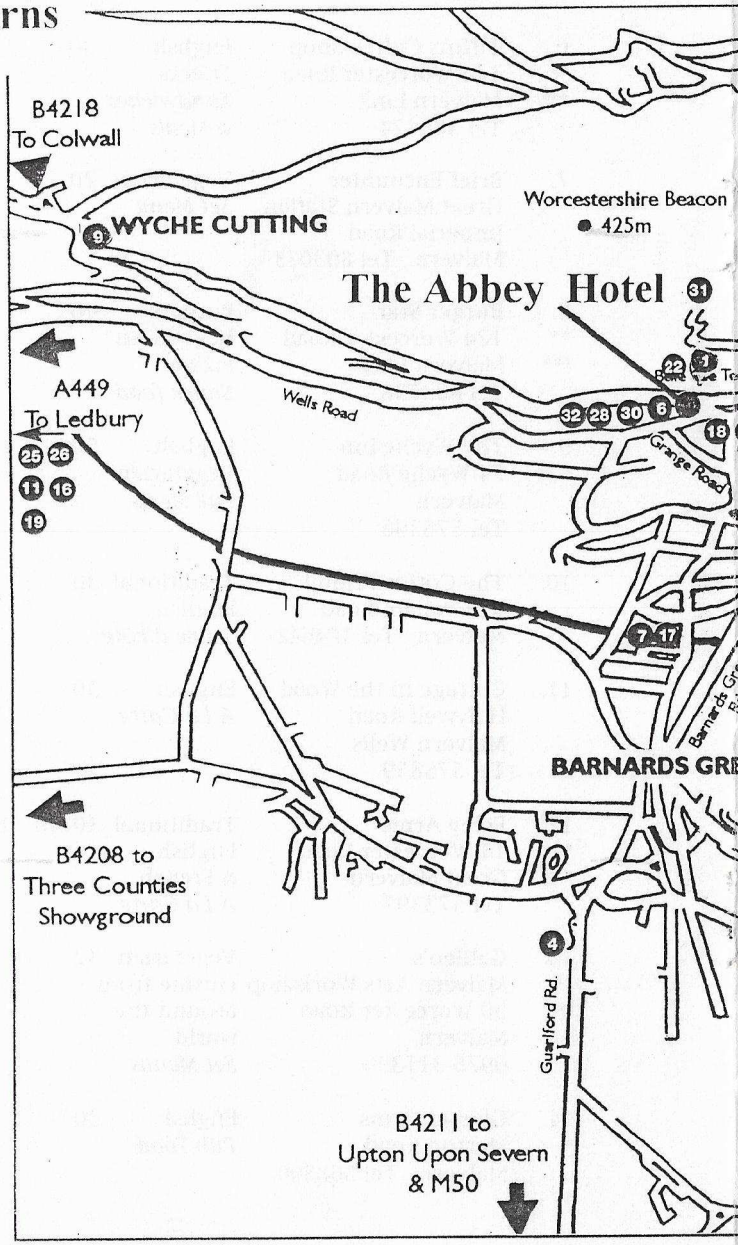
Will be offering its normal bar snack menu, ask at the bar for details.

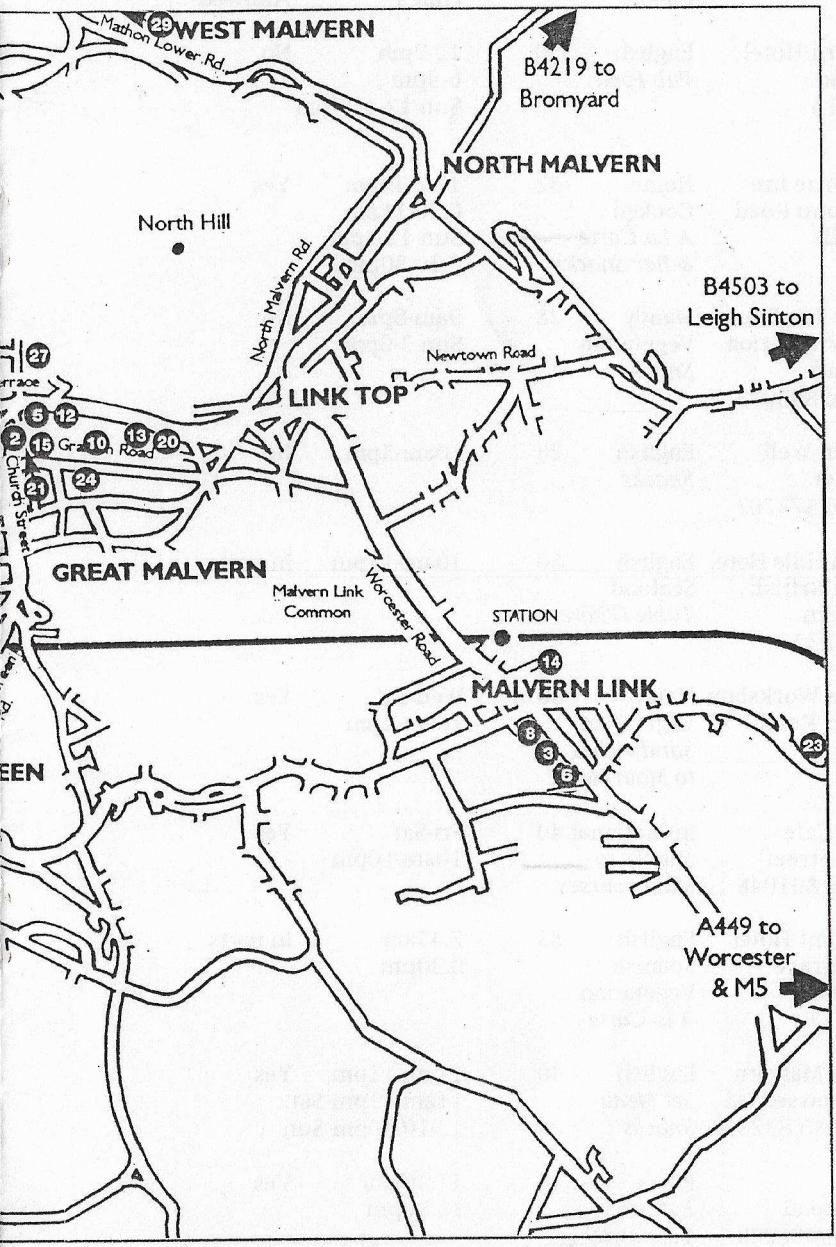
Eating Out

Map Ref.	Restaurant Address	Type of Food	Seats	Opening Times	Smoking Allowed?
1.	Cafe El Sol Belle Vue Terrace Great Malvern Tel 561837	English Spanish Vegetarian *A La Carte*	45	10am-9.30pm	In parts
2.	Anupam 85 Church Street Malvern. Tel 573814	Indian *A La Carte* *Set Menu*	50	12-2pm 6-midnight	Yes
3.	The Bakery Inn 126 Worcester Road Malvern Link Tel 572201	English *Pub Food*	30	11-2.30pm 5-11pm Sun 12-3pm 7-10.30pm	Yes
4.	The Bluebell Inn 4 Guarlford Road Barnards Green Tel 575031	English Vegetarian Seafood *Pub Food*	100	12-2pm 6-10pm Sun 12-3pm 7-10.30pm	No
5. ****	Bluebird Tearooms 9 Church Street Great Malvern Tel 561166	English *Snacks &* *Sandwiches*	40	Tue-Sat 10am-4pm	No

Map Ref.	Restaurant Address	Type of Food	Seats	Opening Times	Smoking Allowed?
6. ** ***	Tiffins Coffee Shop 144 Worcester Road Malvern Link Tel 569474	English *Snacks* *Sandwiches* *& Meals*	30	Sat/Mon 9am-4pm, Tues-Fri 9am-5pm	In parts
7.	Brief Encounter Great Malvern Station Imperial Road Malvern. Tel 893033	Vegetarian *Set Menu*	20	Thur-Sat 7-11pm	No
8. ** ***	Burger Star 124 Worcester Road Malvern Link Tel 893738	Burgers Vegetarian Pizzas *Snack food*	40	Fri-Sun 11am-midnight, Mon-Thurs 11am-11.30pm	No
9.	The Wyche Inn 74 Wyche Road Malvern Tel 575396	English Vegetarian *Full Menu*	50	12-2.30pm 7-11pm	Yes
10.	The Cotford Hotel 51 Graham Road Malvern. Tel 574642	Traditional English *Table d'hôte*	30	7-9pm	Yes
11.	Cottage in the Wood Holywell Road Malvern Wells Tel 575859	English *A La Carte*	50	12.30-2pm 7-9pm, Sun 7-8.30pm	No
12. **	Foley Arms 14 Worcester Road Great Malvern Tel 573397	Traditional English & French *A La Carte*	30/40	12-2pm 6-9pm	No
13. ** ***	Galileo's Malvern Arts Workshop 90 Worcester Road Malvern 0976 311396	Vegetarian cuisine from around the world *Set Menus*	32	Wed-Sat 7-10pm Sun 10am-5pm	No
14. *	Gloster Arms Merton Road Malvern. Tel 568390	English *Pub Food*	30	11-2.30pm 5-11pm (not Sun)	Yes

Eating Out in the Malverns




WEST MALVERN
Mathon Lower Rd.
B4219 to
Bromyard
NORTH MALVERN
North Hill
North Malvern Rd.
B4503 to
Leigh Sinton
Newtown Road
LINK TOP
Graham Road
Church Street
GREAT MALVERN
Malvern Link
Common
Worcester Road
STATION
MALVERN LINK
A449 to
Worcester
& M5

Map Ref.	Restaurant Address	Type of Food	Seats	Opening Times	Smoking Allowed?
15.	Great Malvern Hotel Graham Road Great Malvern Tel 563411	English *Pub Food*	50	12-2pm 6-9pm Sun 12-1.30pm	No
16.	The Hawthorne Inn Upper Weeland Road Malvern Wells Tel 575340	Home-Cooked *A La Carte* *& Bar Snacks*	32	12-2.30pm 6.30-11pm Sun 12-3pm 7-10.30pm	Yes
17. **	Lady Foley's Tea Room Great Malvern Station Imperial Road Malvern. Tel 893033	Mainly Vegetarian *Snacks*	28	9am-6pm, Sun 3-6pm	No
18. ***	The Lyttelton Well Church Street Malvern. Tel 573702	English *Snacks*	26	10am-5pm	No
19.	The Malvern Hills Hotel Wynds Point British Camp, Malvern Tel 540690/237	English Seafood *Table D'hôte*	50	10am-11pm	In parts
20. ** ***	Malvern Arts Workshop 90 Worcester Road Malvern Tel 568993	Mainly Vegetarian *Sandwiches to Main Meals*	30	Wed-Sat 10am-4pm	Yes
21.	Monkey Bar Cafe 99b Church Street Malvern. Tel 891048	Int'national *Snacks to Main courses*	40	Fri-Sat 10am-10pm	Yes
22.	Mount Pleasant Hotel Belle Vue Terrace Great Malvern Tel 561837	English Spanish Vegetarian *A la Carte*	85	7.45am-9.30pm	In parts
23. **	The New Inn Malvern 105 Lower Howsell Rd Malvern. 01886 832359.	English *Set Menu* *Snacks*	40	11am-11pm, 11am-11pm Sat, 12-10.30pm Sun	Yes
24. ***	Pizza Fiesta 20 Graham Road Malvern. Tel 892229	Pizza *Eat In/ Takeaway*	16	11.30-am - 11.30pm	Yes

Map Ref.	Restaurant Address	Type of Food	Seats	Opening Times	Smoking Allowed?
25.	Planters Restaurant 191-3 Wells Road Malvern Wells Tel 575065	SE Asian *A La Carte* *Under £10* *Set Meal*	40	Tues-Sat 7pm-9.30pm, Bookings only after 9pm	Yes
26.	Railway Inn 78 Wells Road Malvern Wells Tel 572168	English Italian Seafood *Various*	50	12-2.30pm 6.30-9pm, NOT Mon/Sun Evenings	Yes
27.	Red Lion St Annes Road Great Malvern Tel 564787	English Vegetarian *Pub Food*	100+	11am-3pm 6.30p-11pm NOT Sun.	
28.	Riley's Tandoori 5 Worcester Road Gt Malvern. Tel 575744.	Indian *Set Menu*	80	6pm-midnight, Fri-Sat 6pm- 1am	Yes
29.	Runnings Park Croft Bank West Malvern Tel 573868	English Vegetarian Seafood/French *Table D'hôte*	40	8-10am 12-2pm 6.30-9.30pm	No
30.	Russos 9 Worcester Road Great Malvern Tel 563063	Italian English *Snacks/Meals/* *Coffee*	40	Tues-Sun 9am-5.30pm	In parts
31. ***	St. Anne's Well Cafe Victoria Walk Great Malvern Tel 560285	Vegetarian	20	11am-3.30pm	No
32.	Sultan's Balti & Tandoori 11-13 Wells Road Great Malvern Tel 562462	Kashmiri & Indian	56	6pm-midnight	Yes

Children are welcome at all of the above establishments with the exception of those indicated with a *.

However only those establishments with ** beneath their map reference number actually offer special facilities for children.

Unlicensed premises are indicated by ***.

All of the above information is correct to the best of our knowledge, however we would advice you to telephone the establishment of your choice before setting out! Many thanks to Malvern Hills District Council Tourism & Leisure Services for the information above.

General Information

Novacon Table: The Novacon Registration table will be open:

Friday:	2pm-7.30pm and 8.30pm-10pm	N27 Registrations ONLY.
Saturday:	10am-3pm and 4.30pm-8pm	All Novacon/BSFG business
Sunday:	11am-4pm and 5.30pm-7pm	All Novacon/BSFG business

From Saturday morning onwards the table will be: selling a variety of Novacon merchandise and publications from previous Novacons; selling tickets for Sausages at the Sausage and Oompah Evening (£2.50 per person); selling memberships to Novacon 28 (just £25.00 at Novacon 27, rising to £28.00 after the con); raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Books for the Blind Project; taking money for the Birmingham SF Group's Beer & Skittles evening.

Gophers: If you ***have*** volunteered to be a gopher or if you ***wish*** to volunteer please report to CHRIS MURPHY in the Ops Room (this is the Cloakroom, behind/beyond the bar in the Elgar Suite). If you ***have*** volunteered or ***wish*** to volunteer to help in the Book Room please report to NIGEL FURLONG in the Shaw (if you are facing the reception desk turn left and head down the corridor to the end).

As we went to press we were still looking for willing gophers to:

- keep the space between the Elgar's programme area and the adjacent bar clear, to reduce noise and congestion. (This doesn't mean having to act like Judge Dredd, just being polite and persistent.)
- Staff the Operations Room, which tends to become a repository for all kinds of stuff which is bound to be wanted at a moment's notice.
- Help set up and clear away for programme items.
- Remind people entering the Book Room not to take in food or drink.
- Generally assist with running the con - 'go-pher this and go-pher that'.
- Go out with Mike Siddall. *[This appears to have been added to the bottom of Chris's list in a different hand....]*

The Bar: Both the main bar in the Abbey and the bar in the Elgar will be serving real ale in the form of Sarah Hughes Pale Amber Ale (4% ABV) - as this has been ordered by Novacon and sales guaranteed by the con we would appreciate you drinking it all - it is also the cheapest beer at £1.80 per pint!

Other beers on offer are Tetleys keg at £2.00 per pint and Stella Artois at £2.20 a pint. Coffee is available over the bar for 80p per cup.

Raffle: If you wish to purchase tickets for the annual raffle in aid of RNIB's Books for the Blind Project, they will be on sale around the con and from the Novacon Registration table - Saturday onwards. In a change from

established tradition, prizes will ***not*** be given out as the draw is made at the Award Ceremony. Instead prizes will be available for collection from a table set up near the Elgar bar ***after*** the ceremony.

Cashpoints: Leave the Abbey Hotel through the main doors to the road, turn right, through the Gatehouse arch, continue straight on to the junction, passing the Post Office, cross the road and continue straight on for Link machines, turn right and head down the hill for most other banks.

No Smoking: We would appreciate it if you refrained from smoking in designated "No Smoking" areas such as: the Shaw/Book Room (apart from dealers), the Worcester/Art Show, the Warwick Lounge, the Lounge Area facing the Hotel Reception Desk and the right hand side of the Programme section of the Elgar (that being the right as you face the stage, the side nearest the windows to the car park).

Erratum: SF BLUES has been cancelled due to the death of Margaret Aldiss last week (as we go to press). If you wish to sign a card to Brian and his family please see Carol Morton at the Novacon registration table (in the lobby at the head of the stairs).

Please note that Dave Lally's programme will be in the Hereford and ***not*** the Montgomery (as appears in the Programme Book). The Hereford is downstairs from the lobby, next to the entrance to the Restaurant and opposite the Con Tables.

Many thanks to WENDY GRAHAM for agreeing to be "Nic Farey" our Tech Ops Boss for the weekend. Unfortunately, just a week before the con, Nic discovered that "real life" work commitments would prevent him honouring his commitment.

Dire Warnings: Please remember that the Abbey Hotel is in the business of selling accommodation, drink and food for profit. Neither the management of the Abbey nor the Novacon committee will approve of people "crashing" in rooms they haven't paid for, and/or smuggling food/drink into the hotel. The Novacon committee will obviously support the hotel in any dispute with members of Novacon caught "crashing" and/or "smuggling".

Committee: Martin Tudor (Chairman & Publications), Carol Morton (Registrations & Hotel Liaison), Tony Morton (Treasurer), Chris Murphy (Operations) and Mike D Siddall (Programme).

Staff: Wendy Graham (Tech Ops), Nigel Furlong (Book Room), John Harrold (Art Show), Al Johnston (Transport), Dave Lally (the Dave Lally Programme Room).

Thanks: To the contributors - Dave Mooring (for all interior artwork/cartoons and the cover), Mike D Siddall (for his programme notes and "adverts"), Forbidden Planet (for their advert and carrier bags), and to everyone who has worked on and at the convention.

Novacon 28

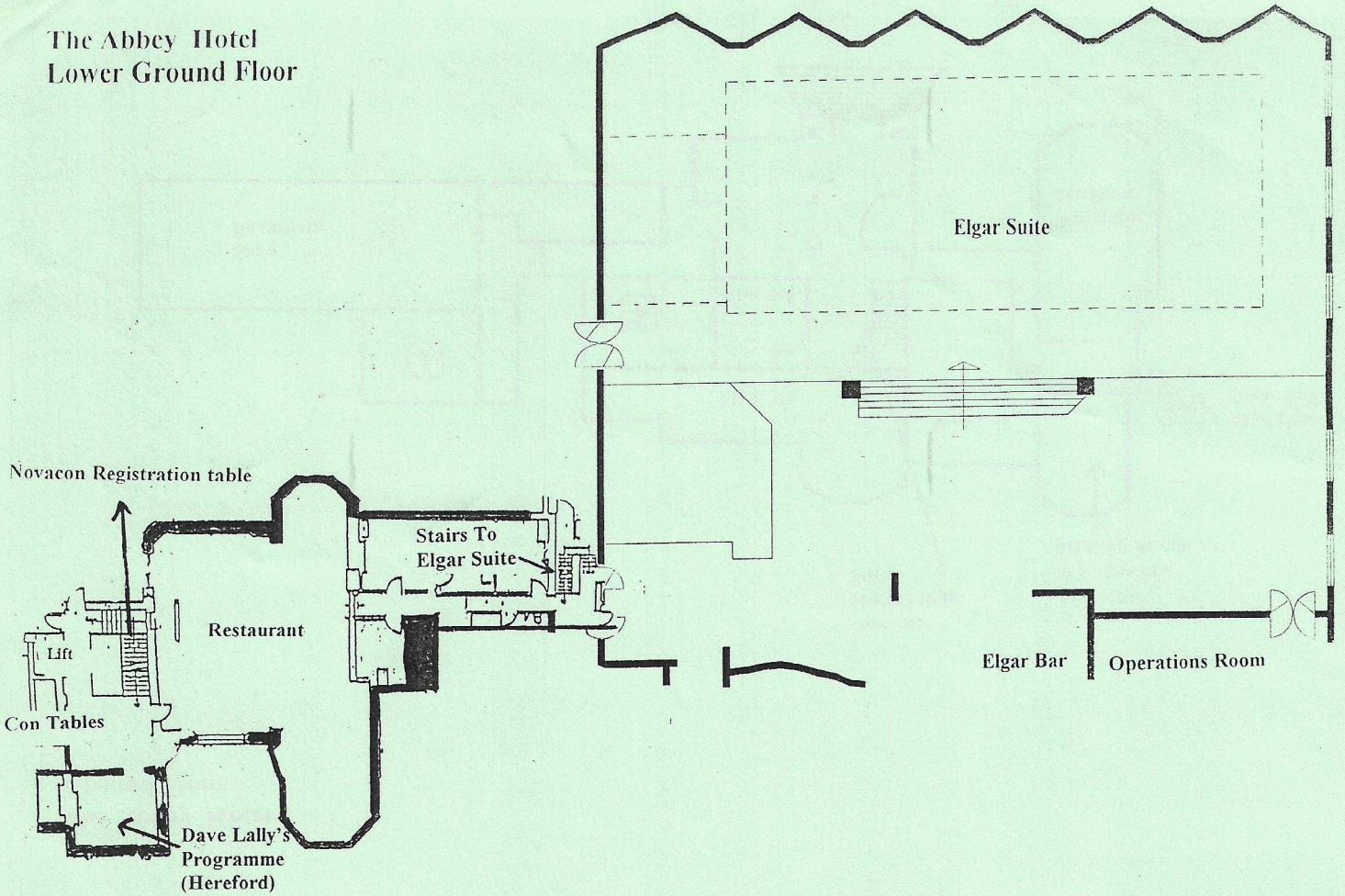
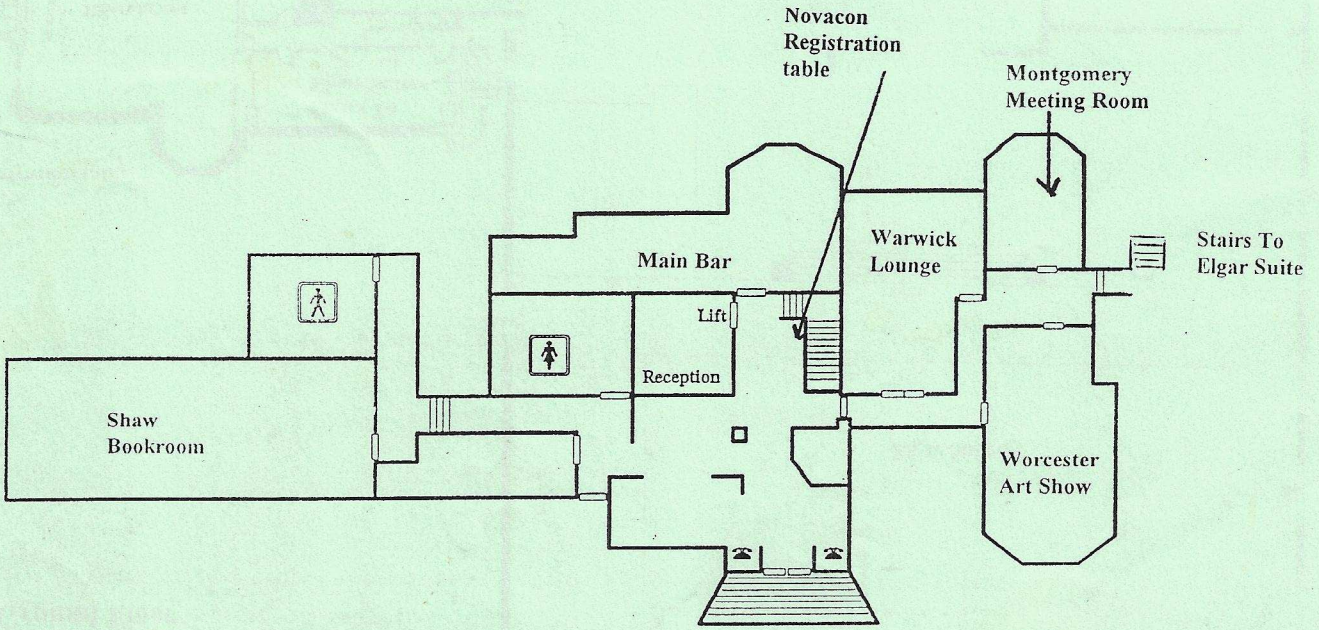
Novacon 28 will be held over the weekend 13-15 November 1998, and we are delighted to announce that our Guest of Honour is Paul J McAuley.

Currently we are still negotiating with several hotels in the Midlands area and we hope to announce our venue in Progress Report #1 later this year. For further details please complete the flyer in your programme package.

Attending membership costs just £25.00 at Novacon 27, rising to £28.00 after the con and probably rising again after Easter 1998. Cheques should be made payable to "Novacon28" and either passed to Carol Morton at the Novacon Registration table or posted to: Novacon 28, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS.

This publication was produced by Martin Tudor for Novacon 27, November 1997, on behalf of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group and was printed by Critical Wave Publications, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX..

The Abbey Hotel
Lower Ground Floor



The Abbey Hotel
Ground Floor